

From: Pat Deibert <pat_deibert@fws.gov>
To: Chuck_Otto@blm.gov
Subject: Re: Public Attendance at next Sage Grouse EIS meeting
Date: Friday, November 05, 2010 10:21:14 AM

Chuck -

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this matter. We are unaware of BLM processes in this matter - specifically does the BLM typically provide opportunities to the public to provide input prior

to completion of an EIS (other than scoping)? If not, why would the exception be made here? Given the diversity of the CA's in this group, substantial public input is already being provided (as evidenced by the e-mail traffic). Our concern is that we have very little time to make a lot of progress and the presence of outside observers may negate meaningful discussion and participation by the CA representatives. If questions and answers are to be permitted, progress would also likely be limited simply due to the need to explain the history and thought process on many issues.

For these reasons, and the ample opportunities the public will have to provide input later, we would recommend that this meeting not be open to the public. Please advise if you have any questions or concerns.

Pat

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